

## Delta Plan Development

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### Summary

Preparation of the Delta Plan is being initiated with development of white papers and the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The Draft Delta Plan and Draft EIR will be prepared by June 2011, and the Final Delta Plan and Final EIR will be prepared by December 2011 to comply with Water Code Section 85300.

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### Background

The fundamental purpose of the Delta Plan is to ensure that state and local agencies meet the state's coequal goals for the Delta and all of the inherent subgoals defined by statute. As defined in the Delta Reform Act, the coequal goals "means the two goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. The coequal goals shall be achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place."

The Delta Plan will define an integrated and legally enforceable set of policies, strategies, and actions that will serve as a basis for future findings of consistency by State and local agencies with regard to their Delta-related projects, and for subsequent evaluation of those findings by the Delta Stewardship Council (Council) on appeal, as provided in statute and Council regulation. The Delta Plan will be developed concurrently with the EIR so that information from the EIR can be used by the Council to develop the Delta Plan alternatives and subsequently the Delta Plan itself.

White papers are being prepared to describe historic and existing conditions and trends related to the Delta ecosystem, Delta flood risks, Delta emergency preparedness, Delta land uses and socioeconomics, and agriculture. The Delta ecosystem and flood risk white papers were presented at the October 2010 Council meeting. The Delta emergency preparedness and Delta land uses white papers (Attachments 1 and 2) will be presented at the November 2010 Council meeting. The agriculture white paper will be presented at the December 2010 Council meeting. The white papers and comments on the white papers will be used to develop the Existing Conditions – or Environmental Setting – sections of the EIR and to identify opportunities and strategies for the Delta Plan alternatives. Public comments received on the white papers will be included in the Comment Tracking program.

Preparation of the Delta Plan EIR is beginning with the preparation of the Notice of Preparation (NOP). The NOP is prepared in accordance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). A preliminary version of the NOP was discussed at the September and October 2010 Council meetings. Public comments received on those versions have been utilized to prepare a version for consideration at the November 2010 Council meeting.

The NOP (Attachment 3) has been modified to expand the discussion of the Preparation of the Delta Plan and the description of preliminary strategies under the Preliminary Proposed Project and Potential Alternatives subsection.

Preparation of the Delta Plan and the EIR are continuing on schedule. The Draft Delta Plan and Draft EIR will be prepared by June 2011, and the Final Delta Plan and Final EIR will be prepared by December 2011 to comply with Water Code Section 85300.

The Comment Matrix is being used to categorize comments for preparation of the Delta Plan and EIR. The matrix that includes name of entity that submitted the comment, comment date, excerpt from the comment letter or email, and use of the comments in preparation of the documents. The November 2010 version of the matrix includes comments received between October 16, 2010 and November 5, 2010 (Attachment 4).

### **List of Attachments**

Attachment 1 - Delta Emergency Preparedness White Paper  
Attachment 2 – Delta Land Use White Paper  
Attachment 3 - Final Notice of Preparation  
Attachment 4 - Comment Matrix for Comments Received from October 16, 2010 through November 5, 2010

### **Contact**

Terry Macaulay  
Acting Deputy Executive Officer

Phone: (916) 445-5825